Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-243
Thursday
17 December 1992

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-243 *17 December 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Sino-Cuban Economic Commission Meetings Begin *[Havana Radio]* 1
Vatican Official Coordinates Medical, Food Aid *[Havana Radio]* 1
Barbadian Prime Minister Sends Message to Castro *[Havana TV]* 1

Haiti

Aristide Commission Plans 18 Dec Protest March *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 1
PANPRA Denies Plot To Assassinate Aristide *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 1
Order Convening Electoral Assemblies Announced *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 1
Leaders Denounce Election 'Irregularities' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2
Narcisse, Charles Positions on Elections Outlined *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2
Foreign Minister Not 'Alarmed' at UN Resolution *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3
INAGHEI Students Protest University Situation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3
Faculties Put Under Rectorate Supervision *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4

Trinidad and Tobago

Government, Unions Meet on Industrial Disputes *[CANA]* 4

CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Rebel, Government Rearming *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 15 Dec]* 5
Army Expecting Increased URNG Activity *[PRENSA LIBRA 15 Dec]* 5
OAS Reforms Approved; Diplomatic Relations Noted *[PRENSA LIBRE 16 Dec]* 5

Panama

Attorney General Receives Bomb Threat, Evacuates *[Panama City Radio* 6
Planning Minister Denies Loss of AID Donation *[EL SIGLO 15 Dec]* 6
Security Groups Announce Plans To Fight Drugs *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 16 Dec]* 6

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Confirms Support for Antinarcotics Official *[CLARIN 15 Dec]* 7
U.S. Official Said To Deny Criticism *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 7
Two Bomb Attacks Cause Heavy Damage in Cordoba *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 7

Brazil

Finance Minister Krause Tenders Resignation *[Brasilia Radio]* 7
Franco Has No Successor 'in Mind' *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 8
Economic Policy To Continue *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 8

Chile

RN Party Punishes Members in Phone-Tapping Case *[Santiago Radio]* 8

Colombia

De La Calle Resigns To Begin Presidential Campaign *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 9
Guerrillas Stage Multiple Attacks on 16 Dec *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 9
Police Station in Valledupar Attacked *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 9
Government Rejects Escalated Wave of Terrorism *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 9
National Police Destroy 200 Hectares of Poppies *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 10
Cartel Members Moved to Maximum Security Prison *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 10

Peru

Costa Rica Grants Asylum to Alberto Borea Odria *[Lima Radio]* 11
Army General Discusses Coup Attempt, Armed Forces *[EXPRESSO 29 Nov]* 11
More From Army General on Coup Attempt *[EXPRESSO 30 Nov]* 12

Uruguay

Lacalle Announces Cabinet Reshuffle for Jan *[Montevideo Radio]* 13

Venezuela

Perez To Reinstate Constitutional Guarantees *[Caracas TV]* 14

Cuba

Sino-Cuban Economic Commission Meetings Begin

FL1612232992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Today, in Beijing, delegations from Cuba and China began work meetings of the fifth Joint Commission for Economic and Commercial Relations, which will run through 19 December. The first meeting was chaired by Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban minister of foreign trade; and by Tong Zhiguang, Chinese vice minister of economic relations and trade. Among other issues, the parties analyzed economic cooperation and mercantile exchange for 1993.

Tomorrow, the Cuban delegation will tour Sichuan Province to learn about local points of interest. The volume of commercial trade between Cuba and China reached $426 million in 1991, which makes Cuba China's largest trading partner in Latin America.

Vatican Official Coordinates Medical, Food Aid

FL1612190292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, an envoy of Pope John Paul II, has met with directors of the world organization, Charity Dioceses, to investigate the work begin carried out in Cuba. The cardinal met today with Cuban authorities to coordinate medical and food assistance.

Barbadian Prime Minister Sends Message to Castro

FL1712024292 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received a message from Lord Erskine Sandiford, prime minister of Barbados, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. In his message, which is dated from Bridgetown, Sandiford pointed out that the step was taken because of the interests that the two countries shared as developing nations and for the attainment of interstate relations, based on respect for the principles of international laws.

The head of the Barbadian government also highlights the ties of friendship and cooperation that have existed between the two countries throughout the years and states that these ties will continue to strengthen and grow.

Haiti

Aristide Commission Plans 18 Dec Protest March

FL1612233692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The presidential commission formed by Father Aristide will march in the streets of Port-au-Prince on 18 December. The commission says it is a symbolic gesture to protest all the criminal and illegal acts perpetrated during the year just ending.

In a communique issued today, the commission announces that it will stage a peaceful demonstration beginning at the Legislative Palace, arriving at the statue of Emperor Jean-Jacques Dessalines in the Champs-de-Mars, passing by Armed Forces of Haiti headquarters.

The commission writes that during this demonstration, which will begin at 1500 GMT, the members of the presidential commission, appointed by the ousted president, intend to especially protest the Permanent Electoral Council and the fraudulent elections they wish to impose on the Haitian people.

Father Antoine Adrien stresses in the communique that the commission members will march alone, so that ill-intentioned people cannot use the occasion as a pretext for provoking incidents. He asks that no one but the press join them during the march. The members of the commission formed by ousted President Aristide say they wish to fulfill their responsibility alone, without interference.

PANPRA Denies Plot To Assassinate Aristide

FL1612233392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA] denies rumors, which it says are unfounded, accusing Senator Serge Gilles of participating in a plot to kill Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. PANPRA states that many negative things were said in a radio statement about the party coordinator. PANPRA publicly denounces, to the national and international public, the manipulations conducted by some sectors to mask the ill feeling between them. These maneuvers, says PANPRA, are devised to satisfy a thirst for power, just as it was when they assassinated Sylvio Claude. It says that those who were victims got what they deserved. PANPRA is a democratic party, the communique states, struggling to get the country out of its current situation.

That was a statement by PANPRA denying rumors that Serge Gilles is participating in a plot aimed at assassinating Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Those signing for PANPRA are Serge Gilles, Arnold Antonin, and Duly Brutus.

Order Convening Electoral Assemblies Announced

FL1612180892 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1130 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Government order issued in Port-au-Prince on 14 December 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] In view of Articles 9, 9.1, 16, 16.1, 16.2, 17, 28, 31.1, 52, 52.1, 90, 90.1, 94, 94.1, 94.2, 95, 95.3, and 288 of the Constitution;

In view of the 8 May 1992 Villa d'Accueil tripartite agreement;

In view of the 20 May 1992 law ratifying the 8 May 1992 tripartite agreement;

In view of the ratification of the selection of the prime minister by the Senate of the Republic on 4 June and by the Chamber of Deputies on 10 June;

In view of the 19 June order appointing citizen Marc Louis Bazin consensus and public safety prime minister;

In view of the 30 July 1986 decree controlling the functioning of political parties;

In view of the 18 September 1978 law on territorial delimitations;

In view of the 9 July 1990 Electoral Law;

In view of the 14 December 1992 request of the Permanent Electoral Council;

Considering that it is important to ensure the perpetuity of our democratic institutions by replacing members whose mandates have expired or who are deceased;

Considering that it is advisable to proceed to renew one-third of the Senate within the time limit provided by the Constitution;

Considering that in addition, it is important to fill those seats vacated by deaths, i.e., of the second senator of the Department of the Southeast, three deputies, one municipal council, and a deputy seat that was excluded from the most recent general elections;

Considering that, consequently, there are adequate grounds for answering the request of the CEP [Permanent Electoral Council] to convene electoral assemblies to fill vacant seats of senators, deputies, and mayors, and in accordance with the Constitution and Article 7 of the 9 July 1990 Electoral Law, at the request of the CEP and on the report of the ministers of the interior and national defense and justice and on the advice of the Council of Ministers, it is ordered that:

Article 1.- Electoral assemblies be convened to elect:
1) Nine senators for the renewal of one-third of the Senate in each department as provided for by the Constitution;
2) The second senator of the Department of the Southeast, as this seat was vacated by death;
3) The deputy of the first district of Petit-Trou de Nippes, [as this] district was excluded from the most recent general elections;
4) Three deputies, i.e., one from the first district of Saint-Raphael, one from the third district of Terrier Rouge, and one from the second district of Pignon, a seat vacated by death;
5) The members of the Municipal Councils of the communes of Petit-Trou de Nippes and Anse-d'Hainault, seats vacated by death.

Article 2.- A certified copy of this order be entrusted to the CEP for further action.

Article 3.- This order be published and executed at the behest of the ministers of the interior and national defense and justice, each in the area of his concern.

Issued at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 14 December 1992, the 189th year of independence. This order is signed by Marc Louis Bazin, head of the consensus and public safety government; Interior and National Defense Minister Carl Michel Nicolas; Foreign Affairs Minister Francois Benoit; Justice Minister Moise Senatus; Economy and Finance Minister Wiener Fort; Planning, External Cooperation, and Public Administration Minister Jean-Andre Victor; Information, Coordination, and Culture Minister Andre Calixte; Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development Minister Jacques Baker; Social Affairs Minister Andre Brutus; Public Works, Transport, and Communications Minister Jean Carmelo Pierre-Louis; Commerce and Industry Minister Saidel Laine; Public Health and Population Minister Adrien Westerban; and National Education, Youth, and Sport Minister Max Carre.

Leaders Denounce Election 'Irregularities'

FL1612184592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Three political leaders have written to Marc Bazin to point out reported procedural irregularities in view of the elections.

In a letter to Prime Minister Bazin, Francois Latortue of MODELH/PRDH, Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti; Volvick Remy Joseph of MKN, National Cooperative Action Movement; and Alex Dominique of ARH, Alliance For the Rebirth of Haiti, recall a note published in LE NOUVELLISTE on 10 December by seven members of the North-West Departmental Assembly in which they denounced the selection of Franck Charles Pierre, MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] representative in Fort-Liberte, as the representative of this region on the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP].

Charles Pierre was allegedly not chosen by the assembly, whose seven protesting members indicated that they had chosen instead Raphael Eriveau, Antoine Jacques, and Mascillon Joseph. The political leaders signing the letter to Marc Bazin denounce the choice as purely arbitrary, falling in the category of excess of power.

The political leaders also denounce the appointment of the members of the departmental offices, BED's, [Departmental Electoral Offices] and BEC's [Communal Electoral Offices]. In their letter to Prime Minister Bazin, the leaders of MODELH/PRDH, MKN, and ADH state that they are not opposed to senatorial elections. However, they point out, the conditions under which they are being prepared raise serious apprehension.

Narcisse, Charles Positions on Elections Outlined

FL1612173192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Daniel Narcisse, whose name was cited as a possible senatorial candidate for the renewal of one-third of the Senate, has not clearly expressed himself in favor of the ongoing electoral process. The federative party Liaison of Democratic Forces, however, hopes for free, credible, and honest elections.

On the other hand, Deputy Jean-Philippe Kerne Charles recalls the 16 December 1990 vote and calls for a return of constitutional order. Edner Jean filed the following report:

[Begin Jean recording] In Daniel Narcisse's eyes, the elections take on a particular character in many respects. It is a test of viability for the so-called consensus government and the main object of observation for the international community, he writes. Therefore, the authorities should try every measure so that those elections are not a joke, a caricature, but a positive step toward a way out of the crisis which must last no longer, points out Daniel Narcisse in a public statement on 15 December.

Waving the spectre of official elections, the federative party Liaison of Democratic Forces demands transparency in all steps of the electoral process, which could incite the greatest number of citizens to participate, according to him. Although no official candidacy statement has been made so far, Daniel Narcisse is already specifying the profile of the coming parliamentarians. They must be known for their competence, their patriotism, and their convictions. Those elected must start working the day after the elections to make up for lost time. A new spirit should be born in the Haitian Parliament because, Daniel Narcisse thinks, the current majority in the Senate and the National Assembly identifies itself as a blockade, more interested in exacerbating than in solving the crisis.

For the Gros-Morne deputy, only the return of Father Aristide can calm the crisis. Jean-Philippe Kerne Charles says the Haitian people reaffirmed their rejection of arbitrariness and their desire to taste the fruits of democracy on 16 December 1990. Two years later, the people's deputy denounces the ridiculous scenarios that led to the formation of the electoral council. The university crisis, the kidnappings, the missing people, the murders lately reported are all elements of the same scenario, states the parliamentarian.

Jean-Philippe Kerne Charles wonders whether senators elected without the people could take the oath as provided for by the Constitution. In any case, the nine members of the Electoral Council took the oath on the Constitution: their mission, to renew one-third of the Senate.

The council is working on the formation of the BED's, Departmental Electoral Bureaus, and of the BEC's, the Communal Electoral Bureaus. However, press correspondents report the formation of some voting bureaus outside the normal process. The BIV's [voting bureaus] are reportedly formed essentially by partisans of the Movement For the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, Prime Minister Marc Bazin's party, according to some correspondents. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Not 'Alarmed' at UN Resolution

FL1612183092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] On 15 December, Haitian Foreign Affairs Minister Francois Benoit firmly denied in Port-au-Prince that he had allegedly stated that he was alarmed by a OAS decision to bring the Haitian file before the UN Security Council in order to reinforce the embargo so the Haitian crisis can be resolved.

During a news conference at OAS headquarters in Washington on Tuesday [date not specified], Argentine Foreign Affairs Minister Guido Di Tella asserted that Victor Benoit [name as heard] said in a letter sent to him that he is alarmed by that decision.

Francois Benoit says: I never said I was alarmed because—on the contrary—the OAS decision to approve the most recent resolution on Haiti constitutes a great failure for Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's camp, which hopes to increase the internalization of the Haitian crisis as it wants to bring the question before the UN Security Council. I see no reason that the Haitian case should be referred to the United Nations, the foreign minister says.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Francois Benoit said that he rejects violence, regardless of its origin, pointing out that he would work, that he would do all he can to resume the negotiations that Father Aristide's camp recently broke off. The government's position has not changed: The government is still ready for dialogue. This is what Haitian Foreign Affairs Minister Francois Benoit told the press on 15 December.

INAGHEI Students Protest University Situation

FL1612165892 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1530 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The students of INAGHEI, National Institute of Management and Higher International Studies, are protesting this morning against the presence of Dean Joseph Adrien. They are standing by the students of the other faculties that are in difficulty, the Teachers Training College and the Faculties of Human Sciences, Agronomy, and Medicine. The INAGHEI students also expressed their position in favor of the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

[Begin unidentified student recording, in Creole] The INAGHEI students committee decided to declare 14 to 18 December as INAGHEI mobilization week. We have three reasons for doing so.

This morning, the students decided to stage a demonstration, to beat pans and stop classes in order to protest against three things: First, the degrading situation in which puppet Dean Joseph Adrien has left INAGHEI since taking office in December 1991.

Second, it is to protest against the re-Macoutization and privatization plan that Bazin, Carre, and Bissainthe have for the university, especially the measures taken to dismiss the boards of directors that were democratically elected in the Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Agronomy, [word indistinct] and the Teachers Training College.

Third, the students decided to stand by the medical school students who are fighting the $100 tuition, which is another form of privatization, and the students of Agronomy who are still missing. The students also wanted to show their

determination on the eve of 16 December to struggle until President Aristide comes back to power, because he was elected by the people on 16 December 1990. [end recording]

Faculties Put Under Rectorate Supervision

FL1712002992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Teachers Training College and the Faculty of Science have been put under the direct administrative supervision of the university rectorate. The rectorate explains its decision to implement this new measure by the absence of law on the university's autonomy, which is currently under study.

Students regularly registered at the Teachers Training College or at the Faculty of Sciences are asked to go to the university rectorate with proof of their registration and two black-and-white or color photos. They will then obtain a standardized State University of Haiti student identification card. This new card will be required for course attendance in all the university faculties. Students who do not have their State University cards by 8 January 1993 will be assumed to have dropped their registration. In addition, new registrations will take place for the next university session.

The rectorate also announces other measures beginning in January, such as the publication of a summary booklet of the State University of Haiti, the formation of a central university library, and the the establishment of the former rectorate building as a student center offering several services, including job placement and local and foreign scholarships.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government, Unions Meet on Industrial Disputes

FL1612233192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2148 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 16, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Government and trade unions met Wednesday [16 December] for the first time since a spate of industrial disputes hit the country two months ago.

At the start of the meeting to discuss plans and directions for the country's development, Errol McCleod, president of the National Trade Union Centre (Natuc), told the government that trade unionists were not prepared for half-hearted talks which would not be translated into action. The leader of Natuc, an umbrella body of trade unions and associations, said they were not only concerned about industrial relations problems but social issues as well.

"We welcome this opportunity to be involved in dialogue, but we wish to warn that we would not be too cooperative if we are going to be called here merely to talk or to be talked to. We want to be seen and we want to be involved as active and interested participants in the affairs of Trinidad and Tobago," added McCleod, leader of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU).

Trinidad and Tobago, under the one-year-old People's National Movement Government, has seen an increase in industrial action within recent months involving water and sewerage authority workers, sugar workers, and sanitation workers. Trade union leaders have also indicated that their members are fully mobilised for heightened action in the new year against the government's structural adjustment plans, the government's inability to pay outstanding arrears to workers, and drastic cuts in subsidies to public utilities. McCleod said the country was faced with very serious economic problems.

"We suspect very strongly that society is about to fracture in a way that we have never experienced in our history and because of our deep commitment to Trinidad and Tobago, we thought that we should bring our own views to the attention of the government." McCleod said it was necessary now for government to include the social partners in responding to the problems of the country.

".... To examine what in fact our difficulties are, what are all of our problems, what are the possible solutions to these problems. If sacrifices are to be made, let us say so, but we must also know how these sacrifices are going to be distributed across the society generally," he said. ".... I believe it is a view shared by every worker in this society ... I'm not certainly prepared to make any sacrifice that will ensure the further enrichment of those who already have more than they need," he added.

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Rebel, Government Rearming

PA1612232692 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 15 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Samayoa on 14 December revealed that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has modernized its weapon arsenal with the help of foreign countries. Therefore, the Army is doing its part to fulfill its mission.

"For approximately eight months the armed insurgents have been exchanging all their war materiel, replacing their M-16 and R-15 rifles with AK-47 rifles and heavy machine guns, which even the Army does not have," the top military officer added.

Given that situation, he continued, it is unlikely the Army will respond to terrorist crimes with "sweets and flowers," but the way they should be answered. That is why the necessary contacts are being made with the Government of Israel for the purchase of defensive weapons, Samayoa explained.

The defense minister added that, within our budget capacity, we hope to fulfill the responsibility to defend the institutionality of the country at any cost. Therefore, we will not allow small groups that are manipulated from abroad to destroy the democratic process of our nation.

El Salvador, Main Supplier of Weapons

Meanwhile, Manuel Conde, head of the Peace Commission, said "we have official reports that El Salvador has been the main supplier of sophisticated weapons to URNG. This is extremely dangerous for the peace process, which is facing an impasse."

"If the insurgents wanted peace, they would not be receiving new weapons, because this implies the Army could do the same and the confrontation could continue to affect the civilian population," Conde stressed.

It is clear that the Army also has to purchase war materiel to counter the activities of any subversive group. Unfortunately, the economic resources that are used to purchase weapons will never be used for development and social benefits, he concluded.

Army Expecting Increased URNG Activity

PA1612224692 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] While government Peace Commission President Manuel Conde Orellana spoke on 14 December of "signs of war and not peace," Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa confirmed that the Army will purchase weapons from Israel to "counteract insurgent actions."

Conde Orellana said on 14 December the government has been informed the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] is going to intensify its military actions over the next few days, a situation the defense minister also mentioned in part to justify the acquisition of new war materiel. According to Conde, the Guatemalan guerrillas have received weapons from their Salvadoran counterparts, who on 15 December signed a definitive cease-fire with the Salvadoran Government.

Conde attributed to the URNG the publication of an anonymous communique that mentioned a government offensive against popular organizations. This—he said—was intended to create a confrontation between the people and government.

Gen. Samayoa recently traveled to Israel and upon his return to Guatemala announced the Defense Ministry will purchase war materiel and communications equipment for the Army's counterinsurgency activities.

Captain Julio Alberto Yon Rivera, Army spokesman, said that on 14 December guerrillas attacked a refinery in Rubelsalto, Peten with rifle fire, killing one civilian and one soldier and injuring another civilian. According to the military spokesman, the attack has been attributed to armed subversive groups.

OAS Reforms Approved; Diplomatic Relations Noted

PA1712035192 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] The Government of Guatemala has voted in favor of the reforms to the OAS Charter on the suspension of governments that attain power by disrupting the constitutional democratic processes.

Indeed, Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel Villacorta confirmed the government's decision at the OAS meeting. In addition, he recognized that "at best, this is a dissuasive element."

The Guatemalan official stated that "there is no place for authoritarianism of any kind," stressing the need to "strengthen our respective struggles to perfect the democratic system that now exists in the nations of the hemisphere."

Villacorta admitted that, far from representing an effective mechanism for the strengthening of democracy, the reforms to the OAS charter are at most "a factor of external pressure sectors that still support authoritarian convictions should carefully consider when drafting their plans."

The deputy foreign minister stated that democracy will not be promoted through the application of external pressure or sanctions, but it will be the result of an internal process that employs the moral and political resources of a nation.

Diplomatic Relations

Guatemala will establish diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates and Russia, the Foreign Relations Ministry announced on 15 December.

Relations were established with the United Arab Emirates on 15 December. Relations with Russia will be formalized March 1993, it was announced.

Ambassador Will Be Decorated

Juan Pablo de Laiglesia y Gonzalez de Paredo, Spanish ambassador accredited in Guatemala, will be decorated on 16 December by Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park. Menendez Park will present the Spanish ambassador with the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Quetzal, as he will soon conclude his diplomatic assignment in Guatemala.

Panama

Attorney General Receives Bomb Threat, Evacuates

PA1712151392 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1443 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Panama City correspondent Jose Cortes, near the Attorney General's Office—live]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz received a phone call a few minutes ago warning him that an explosive device had been placed in his office, several employees reported. National policemen under the command of Major Rodrigo Colon Sanchez have cordoned off the area, where several prosecutors have offices near that of the attorney general. All officials have been evacuated from the area to prevent any injuries should the bomb explode. National police explosives experts have arrived and are searching the building, where it is presumed the explosive device has been placed. These experts have concentrated their search in the parking lot of the Attorney General's Office, the same spot where a bomb exploded several weeks ago, injuring several people and causing considerable damage to automobiles and the building. Many people are in the area watching the national police explosives experts, who have not yet found the bomb. Traffic along Peru Avenue and in the Calidonia area is normal. The bomb threat coincides with a news conference that has been called by the leaders of the Christian Democratic Party.

Planning Minister Denies Loss of AID Donation

PA1612134292 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 15 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Yali Enrique Pitti]

[Text] Delia Cardenas, planning and economic policy minister, denied on 14 December that Panama had lost a donation of approximately 42 million balboas from AID because the government did not comply with certain requirements established by the United States prior to proceeding with the disbursement.

Cardenas emphasized that the $42 million donated by AID to Panama has not been lost but is still part of the agency's budget. She added that the funds will remain on hold until the assessment of the agreement AID 525-0303 has been completed for the disbursement to be reprogrammed.

The planning minister stated that she had received a note from the AID pointing out that everything was in order and that the funds had arrived. Later, however, the AID officials announced that they had not concluded the assessment required for the donation.

"It is unbelievable, it is the same the whole world over," Cardenas said. She said it was a mistake by AID officials and not Panamanian Government officials that prevented Panama from gaining access to the 42 million balboas donated by the AID.

The planning minister announced that she would be meeting with the AID representative in Panama to discuss issues related to the 42 million balboa donation to Panama. Before the meeting, it will be necessary to review items such as contracting, transactions, and other details.

Security Groups Announce Plans To Fight Drugs

PA1712034992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 10a

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] State security organizations have announced they will implement a new strategy to fight drug traffic by air and sea in 1993.

Captain Jose A. Rosas, director of the National Maritime Service, stated that beginning next year, his organization will carry out operations to fight drug trafficking along the Panamanian coasts.

According to this official, the new strategy will be aimed at increasing the number of arrests of drug traffickers and pirates operating in Panamanian waters.

Rosas said that in 1993, Panamanian waters will be patrolled "continuously and thoroughly" because several patrol boats will be donated to the National Maritime Service.

Rosas explained that in January his institution will begin receiving a total of eight patrol boats that are currently being repaired in U.S. and Panamanian shipyards.

Santiago Fundora, director of the National Air Service, announced that in 1993 his organization will carry out its regular program to fight drug trafficking.

Fundora noted the government must maintain "a constant war against the drug scourge."

According to Fundora, foreign nations should give more aid to Panama to execute its antinarcotics struggle because foreign nations are more affected by drugs than Panama.

Argentina

Menem Confirms Support for Antinarcotics Official

PY1612173592 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Yesterday President Carlos Menem again supported Alberto Lestelle, secretary for the antinarcotics struggle, and said he will not ask his state secretary to resign.

During his trip to Rio Grande Menem confirmed the position of Lestelle, who has been accused by repented drug trafficker Mario Noguera Vega of having hired him for kidnapping or murdering Argentine drug trafficker Sergio di Fiori in Brazil.

On 13 December CLARIN published a report based on diplomatic and intelligence sources on the arguments that Robert Gelbard, U.S. State Department principal deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, raised with Argentine officials, criticizing Lestelle's secretariat for the "excessive concentration of duties."

According to the sources, Gelbard conveyed his concern to various Argentine Government officials three weeks ago when he visited our country. At no time did CLARIN claim that Gelbard criticized Lestelle's performance.

Through its press official William Hines, the U.S. Embassy released a communique denying that Gelbard had mentioned Lestelle.

For his part Lestelle demanded retribution for the article published on the U.S. official's alleged criticism of his performance. Lestelle said: "I have a right to have the newspaper look for the person responsible for the article and fire him or her. This is the least the newspaper can do...."

The secretary for the antinarcotics struggle yesterday said he fears that newspapers will publish "another surprising piece of news from another repented drug trafficker, with the same coldness with which that report was published yesterday (13 December)."

Lestelle also expressed concern "because I, and the government, have been bombarded for a month."

Menem's confirmation of Lestelle (Menem yesterday asked himself: "Why should there be any changes in your secretariat?") is taking place at a time when the names of his possible replacements are being mentioned: former federal Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti, a man who, like Lestelle, is linked to Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde; and Juan Bautista Yofre, the current Argentine ambassador to Portugal and a former SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] head.

U.S. Official Said To Deny Criticism

PY1612190992 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1559 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)—Carlos Ortiz de Rozas, Argentine ambassador to the United States, today denied that Robert Gelbard, U.S. State Department principal deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, made unfavorable remarks about the performance of Alberto Lestelle.

In a communique disseminated today by the Programming Secretariat for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and for the Antinarcotics Struggle, Ortiz de Rozas reported that Gelbard "went to the Argentine Embassy in the United States to expressly deny" an article published by a Buenos Aires morning newspaper.

Ortiz de Rozas points out that Gelbard "contacted me to categorically deny and protest an article published in Buenos Aires claiming that he allegedly made unfavorable remarks about the performance of Dr. Alberto Lestelle and his state secretariat, remarks which according to the newspaper he reportedly made during his visit to Buenos Aires."

In conclusion, Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas said that Gelbard "asked me to convey to Dr. Lestelle his flat denial of the contents of the article, which I did over the telephone, denying that he or his department has had or has now any negative position on the performance of this official."

Two Bomb Attacks Cause Heavy Damage in Cordoba

PY1612202692 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1209 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Cordoba, 16 Dec (NA)—Two bomb attacks, which caused heavy damage but no injuries, occurred early today in this capital.

The first attack occurred at 0200 in the Arguello district. The target was the house of a Cordoba Provincial Bank employee, whose wife is a (?university) professor who also works at the Labor Ministry.

Arturo Castro Raimo, the bank employee, said he is involved in neither political nor union activities and that he does not hold a senior position at the bank; bank personnel are currently engaged in a labor dispute.

The second attack occurred at 0330 in the parking lot of a trucking company in the Los Bulevares district. The bomb damaged the facilities but caused no injuries.

According to a preliminary report by the bomb squad, the two blasts were caused by plastic bombs ignited by slow burning wicks.

Brazil

Finance Minister Krause Tenders Resignation

PY1612215092 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Finance Minister Gustavo Krause has tendered his resignation, and Planning Minister Paulo Haddad has taken over as acting. Krause's letter of resignation was submitted to Interim President Itamar Franco at 1100 local time today.

Reporter Luis Augusto Mendoca interviewed Planning Minister Haddad, who provided further details on Gustavo Krause's departure and on the administration's economic policy:

[Begin recording] [Mendoca] Government House announced Finance Minister Gustavo Krause's resignation at 1630 local time this afternoon. The announcement came from presidential spokesman Francisco Baker who read the letter submitted by Krause this morning to Interim President Itamar Franco. In his letter Krause said personal reasons were why he was resigning. It was also announced that Planning Minister Paulo Haddad will take over the Finance Ministry in addition to his current duties. Minister Haddad, what prompted Minister Krause to resign?

[Haddad] Personal reasons. We are all sorry to see Minister Krause go because in addition to being a highly qualified expert, he had become our good friend. Minister Krause is the only one who can explain his reasons for resigning.

[Mendoca] Minister, what economic changes will take place as a result of Minister Krause's departure?

[Haddad] President Itamar Franco has asked us to refine our economic policy, to speed up the return of economic growth, and to reduce interest rates. We have already shown him that there are positive signs in this direction. Basically the economic policy will not change. Despite the rumors being spread there will be no price freeze or preset prices. Our economy will remain a market economy without unilateral state intervention.

[Mendoca] Minister, there was some talk that you too were leaving the administration. What can you tell us about this?

[Haddad] There was never an agreement between Minister Krause and me on this subject. We never made any pacts. We remain great friends, but there is nothing in the story about me leaving.

[Mendoca] What is your message to the financial market?

[Haddad] Relax. I believe that the financial market is now full of rumors spread by speculators who want to make a lot of money real quick.

[Mendoca] Minister Paulo Haddad also said that he will keep both ministries for as long as interim President Itamar Franco wants him to. [end recording]

Franco Has No Successor 'in Mind'

PY1712024692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Report by Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] President Itamar Franco said just a while ago that he has nobody in mind as the future economy minister, as Minister Krause's resignation has taken him by surprise. As for yesterday's visit of economist Dercio Munoz being the last drop in the bucket that prompted Minister Krause's resignation, Franco said that Munoz is an old friend, an old adviser from the days of the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization], and that Franco did not offer him a job. Franco added that he will calmly choose the person who will be able to make a contribution, because according to Franco the interim administration is not ideological and the choice of the future minister will not be influenced by parties or regions. He explained that the profile of the new minister will be similar to that of Gustavo Krause. The new minister, he said, will have to have a modern approach that will take into account not only the economy but social considerations as well.

Economic Policy To Continue

PY1712030192 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Minister Krause's resignation did not upset President Itamar Franco's agenda, but it was the main issue of the day at Planalto Palace.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Pedro Chagas Neto from Brasilia] President Itamar Franco met with Minister Krause and received his resignation shortly after 1130 this morning. Despite this, Franco kept to his office routine. Throughout the day the administration tried to convince everyone that the finance minister's departure will bring no changes to the economic policy.

President Franco met jointly with Senator Albano Franco, president of the National Confederation of Industries, and businessman Antonio Ermirio de Morais of the Votorantin Group. The two brought proposals for the resumption of economic growth and the struggle against tax evasion. The talks, however, ended up focusing on the changes in the economic team.

[Albano Franco] The president made himself quite clear. He clearly stated that his economic policy will continue and that the studies and evaluations that the administration is undertaking do not include anything about preset prices or salaries.

[Unidentified reporter] Doesn't this resignation scare the markets or the businessmen as being a sign of weakness?

[Morais] Honestly, maybe the U.S. dollar exchange rate will rise to 18,000 or 20,000 cruzeiros, but it is bound to crash later on.

[Neto] President Itamar Franco also met with 140 Army, Navy, and Air Force officers and told them that he will summon the Armed Forces high command to discuss a military policy. He added that despite the problems the country is having to cope with today, democratic institutions are gaining strength.

[Franco] The institutions have demonstrated their strength, they have improved and shown the world at large that they are able to weather conflicts inherent of a still grossly unfair society, thus streamlining our democracy.

If we want to, together we may build a great nation. [end recording]

Chile

RN Party Punishes Members in Phone-Tapping Case

PY1612202992 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The Supreme Discipline Board of the National Renewal Party [RN] today issued the following sanctions against the five RN members involved in the phone-tapping case:

To suspend Deputy Evelyn Matthei as a party member for 10 years, during which she will be disqualified from holding any party office; to suspend Cristian Correa and Francisco Ignacio Ossa as party members for three years, during which they will be disqualified from holding any party office; to disqualify Senator Miguel Otero from holding any party office for two years; and to issue a written reprimand to Senator Sebastian Pinera and to disqualify him from holding a party office for one year. [passage omitted]

Colombia

De La Calle Resigns To Begin Presidential Campaign

PA1712020692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Government Minister Humberto de la Calle has resigned. He has given the president the date when his resignation will become effective.

De la Calle has made it clear that his resignation will be effective before February 1993, when a new cabinet change will take place. The president was aware of the resignation.

[Begin De la Calle recording] My decision to resign is definite. We will set the date with the president. [end recording]

Once his departure from the Government Ministry becomes formal, De la Calle will initiate his presidential campaign.

Guerrillas Stage Multiple Attacks on 16 Dec

PA1612183292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Report by Manuel Neyra]

[Text] Cucuta was the target of a guerrilla attack on 16 December. A bomb planted inside a bus exploded in the city center causing widespread destruction. In another incident, 10 guerrillas were killed while trying to occupy a town near that city.

Rebels used a bus carrying approximately 100 kg of dynamite to perpetrate an attack on Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate facilities. The explosion also destroyed the fire department and civil defense buildings, hotels, businesses, and vehicles parked within a 200-meter radius of the blast site.

Although authorities have not fully determined how much damage was caused by the explosion in Cucuta, it has been estimated at over 1 billion pesos.

At the same time of the Cucuta attack, terrorists blew up Immediate Attention Center No. 8 on the road to Camilo Dasa Airport and attacked the jail, thereby allowing eight prisoners to escape.

Here is German Dario Moreno, police commander in Norte de Santander:

[Begin Moreno recording] The police have the situation in Cucuta and the department under control, and we will continue our operations in the area. [end recording]

Three policemen were injured as a result of the terrorist attacks. Authorities have blamed subversive groups operating in this part of the country for the incidents.

Bucaramanga was also shaken on 16 December by a wave of explosions and terrorist attacks. A guerrilla attack in the metropolitan area of Bucaramanga left three dead and two wounded. On Matanza Avenue at the entrance to the Boscona neighborhood in the southern part of the city, a group of men killed Corporal William Caceres, who was in a store making a telephone call. An employee from a nearby farm and Nestor Carrillo, the driver of bus HK-5231, who had just arrived at the scene, were also killed in that same attack.

In the poor neighborhood of La Cumbre in the southern part of the city, six guerrillas attacked the police post from nearby houses. Two police agents were injured by a grenade explosion. Two hours before the guerrilla attack the police found and deactivated three bombs on the road from Bucaramanga to Pie de Cuesta.

Meanwhile, a bomb made with 2 kg of dynamite was deactivated near the Nueva Granada Battalion in Barrancabermeja.

A group of 60 Army of National Liberation guerrillas attacked the small town of San Diego, Cesar, fired at the police garrison, and attacked other government institutions. The rebels left several bombs behind. A policeman was killed while trying to deactivate one of them.

Police Station in Valledupar Attacked

PA1712004192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2303 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] On 16 December the wave of terrorism sweeping Colombia also affected several regions in Cesar Department, where two police stations were attacked. Members of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] hurled explosives at the police station in San Diego corregimiento near Valledupar. The attackers were repelled by the police but the station, as well as nearby homes, was virtually destroyed.

Later in the day, an explosive device was discovered on the highway from San Diego to Valledupar. According to the authorities, it was to be activated when a patrol car passed over it. While the device was being deactivated it exploded, killing one corporal and injuring two policemen.

Government Rejects Escalated Wave of Terrorism

PA1712035092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The national government, through Humberto de la Calle Lombana, government and interior minister, has rejected the escalated wave of terrorism by the guerrillas and drug traffickers. The government and interior minister urged the community to blow the whistle on the terrorists. Here is what Minister de la Calle said:

[Begin De la Calle recording] As I said, Colombians continue to reject the devious destabilization of terrorism. It seems that every day there is a new barbaric action, therefore, we must summon the whole nation to overcome this

stage. I am certain that in Colombia one day we will have peace. I cannot forecast when, but we Colombians are going to overcome this conflict. [end recording]

National Police Destroy 200 Hectares of Poppies

PA1612205492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] The National Police sprayed another 200 hectares of poppies in the rural area of San Vicente del Cagua, Caqueta Department on 16 December. Everything indicates that the 4th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] protected the fields. [Words indistinct] and these men are the bodyguards of Manuel Marulanda Velez and the other members of the FARC General Secretariat. Half of the money earned here was used for the 4th Front's expenses, and the other half went into the Secretariat's coffers. According to National Security Adviser Ricardo Santamaria, the FARC has such a monopoly on the business that it is in charge of distributing the poppy seeds to peasants, providing security for the fields in Caqueta and Tolima Departments, and selling latex, the raw material for processing heroin.

[Begin Santamaria] It is very likely that the Fronts' income is connected to all these fields. In the zones where they are stationed, the rebels have brought in settlers and are directly involved in selling latex. [end recording] The worst thing is the ecological damage. For every hectare planted, two and one-half hectares are deforested to allow the sun in. Since poppy cultivation began in Colombia, 60,000 hectares have been burned and razed. It will take at least 30 years for these soils to produce again.

[Begin recording Narcotics Commander Rosso Jose Serrano] That is why we are involved in a permanent action in this area with our planes and helicopters. We are also working here with our hands to end this problem that has brought so much discredit to the country. I do not think Colombia deserves another drug trafficking Mafia. [end recording]

The Medellin and Cali cartels, which are in charge of selling heroin abroad, are bringing seeds from Asia to improve the quality of poppies. Despite everything, the National Police succeeded in destroying 12,500 hectares of poppies this year in 14 departments, a major victory against this crop.

Cartel Members Moved to Maximum Security Prison

PA1712024992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Telephone report by Eugenio Correa from the Itagui Jail with anchormen Orlando Savadi and Fernando Marulanda in Santa Fe de Bogota on 15 December—recorded]

[Text] [Correa] Government authorities transferred 12 Medellin Cartel members from the Itagui Municipal Jail to the Itagui maximum security ward at 0825 on 15 December. The three Ochoa brothers and terrorist Jose Otoniel Vanegas will remain at the Itagui Municipal Jail, where they have been held for approximately the past two years. The transfer of the prisoners to the maximum security ward started at approximately 0500. Blanca Gil Santis, provincial prosecutor; Jaime Ospina Gutierez, Bellavista prison director; and Mr. Gonzalez, prison directorate mayor, attended the operation. We repeat, the prisoners were sent to the maximum security ward on a bus. This bus brought personnel from the Bellavista prison to relieve the Itagui prison guards at 0825 on 15 December....

[Savadi, interrupting] [words indistinct] the names of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's 12 trusted associates, who have been confined permanently at the Itagui prison's maximum security ward on the morning of 15 December? Are those men the ones who escaped with Pablo Escobar from La Catedral?

[Correa] Valentin de Jesus Taborda Echevarria; Juan Enrique Urtijo Gaviria; Juan Fernando Ospina Montoya, alias El Gordo; John Jairo Betancur Martinez, alias Icopor; and Carlos Diaz Bedoya, alias La Garra.

[Savadi] Seven of Escobar's men, who again surrendered voluntarily to Colombian justice in the past months, are also in prison. They are: Roberto De Jesus Escobar Gaviria, who is Pablo's older brother; Jorge Eduardo Avendano Arango, alias El Tato; John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez, alias Popeye; Otoniel Gonzalez Franco, alias Otto; Gustavo Gonzalez Flores; Luis Hernando Henao Giraldo, alias Misil; and Luis Carlos Aguilar Gallego, alias El Mugre.

[Marulanda] We remind our listeners that a regional court has decided to hold a special trial for Jose Otoniel Vanegas at 1000 on 4 March 1993. This action will be carried out in compliance with Article 37 of the new Criminal Court Procedures Law.

[Savadi] Before ending this special Caracol segment, we return to Eugenio Correa at the Itagui maximum security prison.

[Correa] We report to Caracol listeners that the defense lawyers of the transferred prisoners have expressed their discontent because they were not informed of the action, although the Attorney General's Office and the government knew it would take place. The defense lawyers were very surprised when they came to talk to their defendants on the morning of 15 December. They were not allowed to enter the prison. They were only then advised of the transfer, but were not allowed to visit their clients. The defense lawyers of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's men are very unhappy about the transfer. The transfer action was supported by National Police helicopters to avoid irregularities during the transfer.

[Marulanda] Eugenio, in summary, the Ochoa Vasquez brothers and the terrorist Jose Otoniel Vanegas remain at the Itagui municipal jail and 12 of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's trusted men have been transferred to the maximum security prison.

Peru

Costa Rica Grants Asylum to Alberto Borea Odria

PA1612190792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Foreign Ministry communique issued in Lima on 16 December]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry informs the public that on 15 December the Costa Rican Embassy notified us that the Costa Rican Government granted diplomatic asylum to Peruvian citizen Alberto Borea Odria [former president of the dissolved Senate and defense attorney of alleged coup leader retired General Jaime Salinas Sedo].

In addition, the Costa Rican Embassy has requested the corresponding safe-conduct for the departure from the country of the aforementioned citizen.

The Peruvian Government is currently evaluating the request made by the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica.

[Issued] Lima, 16 December 1992
Foreign Ministry Press Directorate

Army General Discusses Coup Attempt, Armed Forces

PY1612211492 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p A27

["Conspiracy or Coup?" by Division General Luis F. Cisneros Vizquerra—part one of two]

[Text] For some media organizations and some people who persistently and unsucessfully attempted to locate me in recent days, my silence regarding the military developments could be construed as a form of conspiracy.

My behavior toward the media has always been characterized by two patterns for which I honestly believe I should be given credit: First, I have always talked about those topics I know I can comment on, based essentially on my knowledge of the facts; and second, I have always conveyed my ideas as clearly and as directly as possible, within my own limitations. This commentary, as well as the one that will be published tomorrow, are consistent with these two major guidelines.

In my opinion, the events that I will be commenting on entail two aspects that are altogether different. One aspect is of a strictly institutional nature, while the other one has major political implications. Because these two aspects are extremely broad, I will have to analyze them in two parts. Today, I will start with the institutional aspect.

To state that there is no uneasiness and that instead there is great cohesion within the armed institutions is—at the most—a half-truth. It is true that there is massive support for the position taken by the government, namely by President Fujimori, in light of his leadership and approach toward the countersubversive war, which has been instrumental in taking the offensive with good results, in restoring the image of the security forces, and in boosting military morale; but it is also true that a sense of uneasiness, which had already started under the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] administration, has steadily increased during this administration. There are many causes behind this uneasiness, some of which are known to the public, and thus I have no qualms about commenting on them. We should mention first the salary problem, although this is not the most important cause. Although this is a nationwide problem stemming from the disastrous economic situation inherited from the previous administration, it is equally true that of all public servants it is the military and police personnel who were and are more likely to sacrifice their lives in this war against subversion. Thus, they continue to wait for just compensation for the sacrifice they are making. Their logical, just aspirations for earning wages that would provide them with a decent standard of living have thus far gone unfulfilled.

Destitution

Second, the state of destitution into which families of servicemen are forced when their loved ones are killed in action in the antisubversive fight is also cause for concern and uneasiness. Neither the government nor society has shown concern about providing these families with a decent pension and housing. If we cannot earn decent salaries when we are alive, we expect at least our dead comrades to be adequately compensated for having sacrificed their lives to defend society. A failure to do this shows at least indifference toward the institutional responsibilities we are called upon to assume.

The third cause is the clear political interference in domestic military institutional life. The armed forces are traditional institutions in our country. The Army, the oldest of all services, came into being with the fatherland itself. Throughout more than 150 years of existence, the Peruvian Army has made progress and has sought to improve its operations by introducing a number of changes into its organization and equipment, as well as in its doctrine and training, to make its personnel increasingly efficient and skillful. I can speak with authority about what happened during the past 50 years. I can do so without fear of making any mistake because I will soon complete 50 years of service with the Army. Thus, I can vouch for the dedicated effort of our old professors and for the remarkable dedication of men of my generation who not only strived to give our men good training, but also to make them proud of belonging to our institution in light of its moral values.

This is why, during this long period, we always maintained a position respecting the institutions, seeking in all possible ways to maintain a distance from political or partisan interests. Individually, we may have our political leanings, but the institution is not committed to anybody. We have always maintained the same conviction: Governments change; parties are born, they grow, they decline, and they perish, but the military institutions are and will be permanent for the safety of the motherland. Our laws and rules were the legal support of this premise. Everything was clear in our institutional life. Clear and transparent.

The rights and duties of each one are written there; that is why there is a military situation law, a law on promotions, a

law on assignment of missions, and a law on renewals and retirement, among many others. That has been our way of life with logical mistakes in its application stemming from human errors, but they were never meant to meet the irresponsible interests of any individual either inside or outside the institution.

The Supreme Chief

We do not question the subordination of the Armed Forces to civilian power, but we never accepted and we reject, and will always continue rejecting in principle, the submission and manipulation of our institution. Such manipulations generate dishonor, disloyalty, immorality, loss of professional ethics, and corruption, which constitute the antithesis of the morals we proclaim and which we try to maintain and demonstrate despite our human weaknesses.

I consider that the constitutional responsibilities of the supreme chief of the Armed Forces is greatly misinterpreted. This title is recognized not only by our constitution, but by many others as well. The president of the Republic, as chief of state, is the supreme chief of everybody, soldiers and civilians. This specific point should be further specified in the next constitution to clarify that it is not an honorific title but a real reason for military subordination. Unfortunately, since the APRA administration, this constitutional precept began to be distorted and misused, introducing a harmful interference in the Armed Forces. Rights began to be violated in favor of personal likings or political interests. The image of the high command began to be smeared when, under certain circumstances, real institutional interests were subjected to unclear political or personal interests. This began to harm our internal discipline in some cases and to generate a demoralization that has generalized and from which we have not yet recovered.

The Montesinos Case

This interference, which has been harmful for the institution, unfortunately persists, and to a greater degree. Legal dispositions were issued giving the president of the Republic more power to make decisions that were always exclusively made by the Armed Forces high command. The current institutional discomfort increases with the defying and unnecessary presence close to the president of Captain Vladimiro Montesinos, who was discharged by the Army through a disciplinary measure and sentenced to military imprisonment about 15 years ago. The reason for his presence is the exclusive prerogative of the president of the Republic, but the responsibilities Montesinos has been given represent a permanent insult to the institution which years ago judged him not worthy of using the honorable uniform of a soldier, a fact that morally disqualifies him from being a member of the National Intelligence Service and from having young Army officers on active duty under his command.

How can it not be confusing that the president of the Republic should maintain in his staff, at the highest counseling level in the field of defense and safety, a man questioned by the institution and whose entrance onto military grounds was totally prohibited until two and a half years ago, at a moment when the most significant government support is precisely the Armed Forces? With what moral authority can someone who in the past placed our safety in danger now counsel about our safety problems?

I am not questioning his intellectual capacity. I, as well as many Armed Forces members, question his presence in a circle which, for being ours, should continue being protected by moral values that he has demonstrated he does not have.

I personally know the alleged commanders of the events that took place, and I have consideration and respect for them because I know their clean service records. I am not surprised that they share my concerns given that they suffered a wrongful application of the renewal law which prematurely made them retire at a moment when, according to their professional records, they had been chosen to occupy the top posts of the institution.

However, there remains a final question: What is happening with the other Armed Forces branches and the National Police that share this same concern but which have not suffered the same violations? Logically, we cannot think that they are indifferent in face of this discomfort that also reaches them, nor do we believe that they are waiting for the Army to solve their problems. Have talks about this subject been held in high levels? Time will tell.

So far, these are what I understand the institutional reasons that could have motivated the military events we are analyzing.

More From Army General on Coup Attempt

PY1612225892 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p A23

["Conspiracy or Coup?" by Division General Luis F. Cisneros Vizquerra—part two of two]

[Text] I believe that a political analysis of the alleged military events of Friday, 13 [November], should include at least a summary of the internal and international situations.

From an international viewpoint, I believe there are three topics to be emphasized. First, the installation of constitutional governments in Latin America and the political experience acquired by the Armed Forces of the region have led us, in my opinion, to a more cautious attitude in handling government-Armed Forces relations, and to more careful analysis and interpretation of the people's reactions.

The political factors that demand a definition from the Armed Forces have not disappeared. In my opinion, most pendular movements tend to solve the short-term problems caused by the prevailing circumstances. In addition, medium- and long-term problems call for international understanding, which does not always exist. Today, more than one Latin American country is walking on the edge of a razor, in a difficult balance, searching for more feasible solutions.

Continuing from an international viewpoint, the Democratic administration that will take over in the United States has been traditionally less willing to understand our problems and to consider solutions other than those that they

advocate. They uphold their position in international organizations, on which they have enormous influence.

On the other hand, the Organization of American States, which has managed to recover an image that was destroyed by the position assumed during the Malvinas war, is now engaged in restoring democratic normalcy in our country.

A first conclusion that we could draw from this very brief analysis is that from an international viewpoint, conditions were inappropriate for attempting a successful coup.

The Internal Situation

In the political analysis of the internal situation we should emphasize other topics.

First, it is impossible to deny that the president enjoys the people's support, which has overwhelmingly grown after the decision made on 5 April. This support reflects strong criticism of political parties—in some cases because of the party performance while in the presidency, in others because of the party's obstructionist position in Congress. This support also reflects that people clearly like and openly applaud the way in which President Fujimori exercises his authority, despite the difficult economic situation in which we are living and high unemployment. Peruvians like authoritarianism, provided it is exercised by a civil authority.

Second, we cannot fail to recognize that this support has grown with the impact that a consistent antisubversive strategy with positive results has had on the majority groups.

Polay Campos and Abimael Guzman have ceased to be myths, and today they are in jail. The president's call to civilians to join this fight has received a favorable response, and today it is easy to detect an attitude of optimism in the final victory.

Third, the summons to the elections for the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] has also raised democratic expectations. Some people believe that this will mark the reactivation of the struggle between the executive and legislative branches. Yet others have a more optimistic view, as they expect that it will strengthen our international policy and will try to improve the relations between the branches of government.

Fourth, the presence of a significant number of foreign observers during this process guarantees that the final result will be recognized both at home and abroad, provided the results are obtained in a trouble free process.

A second conclusion of this brief analysis might be that internal conditions were also inappropriate for a military action like the one that was reported to us.

What happened then?

I am sure that an analysis of this type whould have been made if there had been plans to stage a coup. I am also sure that if the analysis had been done in a calculating manner, the conclusions would not have been too different from the ones outlined in this article.

This leads me to the conclusion that meetings are very likely to have been held, first between retired and active personnel, because of the alluded uneasiness, in order to analyze the institutional environment. I believe that civilians are likely to have attended other meetings to help analyze both the political and the international situations. Based on all the available information, I even think that successive meetings might have been held and that final conclusions must have been reached in order to make a decision.

If there had been an initial decision that was later modified for any reason, the situation would have involved a conspiracy, and not a coup. A coup d'etat, in military terms, is a military operation that attains its political objectives because it was successful, or it fails because it was unveiled. But if there is neither troop deployment nor confrontation, if there are no arrests nor a single shot fired, and if conspirers do not demand surrender, it is exaggerated to refer to the situation as a coup. A conspiracy is a situation in which individual rights, like the right of assembly and free expression of ideas, are preserved. The crime is committed when the ideas are implemented, and not before.

"Ideas are exposed, not imposed," is a phrase on the facade of the Advanced Military Study Center. General Jose del Carmen Marin, who wrote this phrase, was never considered a coupist.

As a member of the military institution, which now appears involved in this ungrateful episode, I ask that the events be analyzed in a serious and truthful process. I also ask for generosity in the results of this analysis. I am asking for it because I am convinced that this will not cause wounds that will be difficult to heal.

Yet in order to avoid similar events in the future, which do no good to either the international image of the country or the Armed Forces themselves, I also ask once again that legal modifications be enforced in order to eliminate political intervention within the Armed Forces and the National Police, and that people who are ungrateful to the institutions and harmful to the country be eliminated from the presidential circle.

Uruguay

Lacalle Announces Cabinet Reshuffle for Jan

PY1612195892 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] During a news conference, President Luis Alberto Lacalle stated that foreign investors were not pleased in the least with the outcome of last Sunday's referendum, which revealed that more than 70 percent of Uruguayans rejected the privatization of the state-owned telephone company. He conceded that the downright pronouncement against the privatization program is tantamount to a censure vote against his administration for implementing a laissez-faire policy to deregulate the economy and reform the state.

He nonetheless asserted—before the foreign correspondents present there—that he will stick to his economic guidelines and to his economic team.

Notwithstanding this, Lacalle acknowledged that once the lengthy adjustment period is over, he will try to improve the purchasing power of civil servants' salaries, which have been lagging behind the rest during his administration.

Lacalle announced that he will reshuffle his cabinet early in January, although he gave no details about names or ministries.

According to sources close to the executive branch and published in the morning newspaper EL OBSERVADOR, Agriculture and Fishing Minister Alvaro Ramos will resign in January for personal reasons, rather than because of the current political situation. Ramos belongs to the Renewal and Victory Movement, a Blanco Party faction led by Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre.

During a dinner reception given yesterday evening at the Suarez residence, Lacalle urged Herreraist deputies to ponder the current situation and invited them to a meeting on 20 December at the Del Lago Inn so that they can express their views on the current political situation.

Venezuela

Perez To Reinstate Constitutional Guarantees

PA1712004792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez announced that the constitutional guarantees that were suspended due to the 27 November events will be reinstated in the next few days. The president says this is not a personal whim, but is due to the series of investigations under way, which require a certain freedom to act.

The president made these comments when he met with Zulia State journalists after he gave his Christmas and New Year's greetings to the military forces.

[Begin Perez recording] This is not a presidential whim; we suffered through a very serious disturbance and the crisis is being investigated. The country is calm, but some investigations require a certain degree of leeway by the government. I am sure constitutional guarantees will be reestablished very soon—the time will be decided after we analyze the situation. [end recording]